



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH**

Town of Arlington

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**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 12, 2006
First Floor Conference Room
Senior Center
5:00pm**

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Carole Allen, Mr. Gregory Leonardos (Chair) and Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick

Staff in Attendance: Christine Connolly, Director of Public Health, Natasha Thorne, Health Inspector, Teresa Wood, Health Inspector, Mary Ann Jacobs, Department Secretary

The June 6, 2006 meeting minutes were accepted as amended.

I. INTRODUCTION: New Staff Members

BOH is very happy to introduce two new members to our office. Natasha Thorne has replaced Denise Boucher as the Health Compliance Officer. Natasha comes to Arlington from the Watertown Health Department with two years of experience as a health inspector. We are also very pleased to have Teresa Wood working in our office two days a week and in Newton three days. This is Teresa's second year with us, last year she worked as an intern with us in the course of finishing her master's degree at BU. (Denise Boucher is now Assistant Food Director for the Arlington School Cafeterias.)

II. UPDATE: West Nile Virus Case

An East Arlington woman was diagnosed with West Nile Virus. The woman is 83 years old and a very active outdoor enthusiast and loved working in her garden. She is presently in a local hospital and is improving. Immediately following this news, a "Fight the Bite" notice was printed and delivered to local supermarkets for inclusion in grocery bags. The news broke the day before Arlington's Town Day, which prompted BOH to set up tables and provide insect repellent to participants at Spy Pond Field and the Arlington High School and Arlington Catholic football games.

IV. PRESENTATION: High Rock Church - Health Fairs

Dr. Josephine Kim, mental health counselor and professor at Harvard School of Education and Young Joo, Administrator at the High Rock Church presented an overview of the goals of the High Rock Church to provide health care for all. At the last three fairs held at the Church, The Health Corp Team included Dr. Anderson, pediatrician, Julie Song and Dr. Joe Lee, dentist. The Board made numerous inquiries regarding suitable facilities, medical records, liability and services actually provided. The aim of the Church is admirable, however, in order to provide such services in the

present building would be impossible without first creating first-rate health facilities. At present, the health fairs are really health screenings with no services provided.

V. UPDATE: Flu 2006-2007

The State will be issuing 1,250 doses of flu vaccine to Arlington this year, and the BOH is scheduling a flu clinic for senior 60+in late October or early November, barring any delays from the state.

VI. UPDATE: Medical Reserve Corps

Teresa Wood explained that Arlington is part of a public health sub-region that includes Brookline, Watertown, Newton and Belmont. This region has recruited 250 people (40-50people signed on in Arlington) to provide services in any emergency situation. A series of orientations will be scheduled in the different regions explaining emergency preparedness and the vital need for volunteers in all walks of life in a time of disaster. A state-prepared video will be shown and applications will be provided to encourage all to sign up with the Medical Reserve Corps.

VII. UPDATE: Food Establishment Changes

The following changes are in progress in Arlington: Gail Ann Coffee Shop is changing ownership. Beacon Spa has been sold and is now called Mass Convenience. Fabiano's, 882 Mass Ave, has folded and the restaurant will re-open in October as Buddy's, the original owner of the site. Punjab Restaurant will be moving a few doors down from their present location to a much larger, completely renovated restaurant. Starbucks, 325 Broadway is remodeling. Bangalore Café located in East Arlington has been sold and will re-open as Kathmandu Spice Restaurant. Pastry Impressions in agreement with Tryst and will be baking at the restaurant on off-hour for catering only. Maria's Pizza in East Arlington has also been sold and will re-open as Rock & Roll Pizza. Arlington Restaurant & Diner is in negotiation to sell in the near future.

VIII. DISCUSSION: Upcoming trainings, meetings and exercises

Board members have been given a list of trainings, meetings, etc. There are two requirements the Federal government requires of all emergency personnel – Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System(NIMS). These can be completed in a training class or on-line training with guidance. There will be ICS training Nov 1 for the school nurses and you are welcome to attend. Also, we are in the planning stages with our Fire Chief, who is our Emergency Management Director, about an exercise in the spring to bring together our Medical Reserve Corps and go through a scenario, such as a hurricane, and what we here in Arlington would do to respond. Would we open a shelter? How would we identify bodies? How will we work with other communities? We will keep you posted on future developments.

IX. Public Comment

Jeanne Leary, President, and Elizabeth Coyne, Volunteer Coordinator, of the Summer Street Neighborhood Association presented the concerns of the Summer Street residents in regard to the construction on the street. The word is that this project will take another two years to completion. The residents expressed concern over rats, dust, trash and the overall safety of the neighborhood. There are many children in the area as well a high percent of elderly.

Adjournment

The next Board of Health meeting will be October 24, 2006.

